

## STATE OF TEXAS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Since our country and state were fought for and founded, Americans and Texans have worked endlessly to ensure our nation and state deliver on the promise of prosperity for all by holding firm to our country's endowing values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As we have humbly pursued these honorable goals, Americans and Texans have embraced faith and prayer as pillars of unwavering support for our families and communities during times of challenge as well as during times of celebration. From the individual citizen to our most influential leaders, whether we are asking for strength or thanking God for our many blessings, we can always find wisdom and peace through prayer.

As a nation inspired by the right to religious freedom, we have a rich history of honoring that right and coming together in prayer, a history that can be traced back to our forefathers and which endures today. Our country's leaders have always recognized the importance of prayer, from the Continental Congress in 1775 to our numerous presidents who have relied on prayer in times of crisis. In 1952, President Harry Truman signed a joint resolution establishing a day of prayer and solidifying our nation's devotion to the undeniable power of prayer. Following in this tradition, President Ronald Reagan declared the first Thursday in May to be a National Day of Prayer in 1988, and encouraged Americans "to gather together on that day in homes and places of worship to pray, each after his or her own manner, for unity in the hearts of all mankind."

Americans and Texans continue in this tradition today, recognizing the strength of prayer in our lives and cherishing our right to freely practice our own religion. During times of hardship and crisis, I have called for days of prayer as Texans seek God's strength and healing, and recall the valuable truth that when it seems as if there is nowhere to turn to or lean on, we can always go to God in prayer.

As we remain diligent about keeping our friends and families healthy, I encourage Texans of faith to find safe ways to come together in prayer to acknowledge God's glory, find fortitude in His promises for our lives, and offer gratitude for the many blessings He has given to our communities, state, and nation.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2021, to be

A Day of Prayer

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

Governor of Texas